



Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
GOVERNOR

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CONTACT: Governor's Office
Shareese N. DeLeaver
Henry P. Fawell
410.974.2316

Darlene Frank, Director
Office of Communications
Maryland Port Administration
410.385.4480

**GOVERNOR EHRLICH SIGNS CONTRACT MAKING THE PORT OF BALTIMORE
TOP PORT ON THE EAST COAST FOR PAPER PRODUCTS**

M-real USA Corporation Expected To Bring More Jobs To Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD – As part of his aggressive effort to grow Maryland's economy, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., today signed a six-year contract with M-real USA Corporation and Baltimore Forest Products Terminals LLP (BalTerm), that will make Maryland's Port of Baltimore the number one paper product port on the East Coast.

"This is a great day for the Port of Baltimore and the State of Maryland," said Governor Ehrlich. "This contract makes the Port of Baltimore the top port on the East Coast for shipping paper products and translates into dozens of well-paying jobs for Maryland families."

The six-year agreement, with two six-year renewal options, commits M-real to bringing an additional 300,000 tons of paper into Maryland's Port of Baltimore annually. In addition to being number one on the East Coast, the Port of Baltimore now will move up to number seven in the entire nation for the value of cargo carried through the Port.

"We considered various Atlantic Coast locations, and Baltimore is the ideal solution for us, not only because of its geographic location and history of maritime operations, but also because of this Governor and his team's resourcefulness," said Jorma Sahlstedt, President, M-real USA Corp. "Based on our experience in dealing with the Maryland Port Administration and BalTerm, we are confident that this will be a true win-win for all parties."

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Employing almost 16,000 worldwide, M-real is one of the leading paper companies in Europe. Through its worldwide sales network, M-real serves its customers who mostly comprise publishers, printers, paper merchants, offices and carton printers and well-known consumer product companies. M-real provides excellent wood fiber-based solutions for consumer packaging, communications and advertising end-uses. Together with its customers and partners, M-real develops solutions for demanding end-use, such as magazines, art books, brochures, direct mail, office papers, as well as packages for beauty health care products, cigarettes, branded food and consumer electronics. BalTerm is the stevedore and terminal handling for all M-real products.

“The six-year contract with M-real with two extensions cements our relationship with another international company,” said F. Brooks Royster, III, Executive Director of the Maryland Port Administration.

Three hundred years old in 2006, the Port of Baltimore has consistently remained one of the top U.S. ports for several reasons. Located more than 170 miles inland, Baltimore is the closest U.S. Atlantic seaport to major mid-Western destinations and manufacturing centers. Nestled in the heart of the fifth largest, second wealthiest consumer market in the nation, Baltimore is a prime distribution location. The public terminals of the Port of Baltimore recently surpassed a brand new milestone.....8 million tons of general cargo in FY 2005.

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